



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hoover Presidential Foundation Welcomes Uncommon Student Award Participants to West Branch

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – October 7, 2024 – The Hoover Presidential Foundation will welcome 15 Iowa high school seniors to the Hoover Campus in West Branch, Iowa on Saturday, November 9 from 9:30-4:30 as participants of the 2024 Uncommon Student Award program. The students were selected from a pool of applicants across the state for community-minded projects of their own creation. This will be their second visit this year. In June, participants, who were selected as juniors, spent a weekend learning more about the life and values of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover and working with mentors to better develop their projects.

This year's class is comprised of these Iowa high school seniors.

Gabrielle Biedermann	Linn-Mar High School	Marion
<i>The Reaction Project: Putting the Action into Reactions by Spreading Awareness of Food Allergies and Related Mental Health</i>		
Cory Carter	Davenport West	Davenport
<i>Iowa Kid, Iowa Dirt, Iowa PRODUCE...IOWA Students</i>		
Edmund Hamann	Des Moines East	Des Moines
<i>ISCD (Iowa Swim Clinic for the Deaf)</i>		
Graham Johnson	Valley High School	West Des Moines
<i>Global Gardeners</i>		
Hudson Kimm	Prairie High School	Swisher
<i>Empowering Youth Athletes: The Mental Side of Sports</i>		
Alannah McKibben	Iowa Valley High School	Marengo
<i>Care Bag Project</i>		
Raygan Meehan	Hempstead High School	Dubuque
<i>Lunch Tray 5k</i>		
Zack Morris	BCLUW High School	Union
<i>Giving Bees a Home</i>		

Ananya Oli <i>Today's Voters, Tomorrow's Future</i>	Linn-Mar High School	Marion
Journee Petersen <i>Warrior Wellness Corner</i>	Calamus-Wheatland High School	Calamus
Isaiah Picard <i>Para Swimming Clinic</i>	Homeschool	Knoxville
Shubham Sah <i>STEM Empowerment Initiative Nepal</i>	Waukee High School	Waukee
Lauren Schroeder <i>Garden Donations for Non-Profits</i>	Calamus-Wheatland High School	Dixon
Katlin Truelsen <i>Ladies Livestock Mentor Program</i>	Central DeWitt High School	DeWitt
Luke Wittrock <i>Central Iowa Youth Business Incubator (CIYBI)</i>	Valley High School	Urbandale

Each of the 15 students will receive a \$1,500 award. In addition, four \$10,000 scholarships are awarded for study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or trade school anywhere in the United States. The award program seeks to identify uncommon students during their junior year in high school. Applicants submit a proposal for a project they want to accomplish, which relates to Herbert Hoover. Hoover was known as a great humanitarian, entrepreneur, engineer, and loved technology and the environment. Students are not evaluated on the basis of grades, test scores, essays, or financial need.

Students are selected each year based on their stated project goal and detailed plans to reach that goal. Finalists spend a required expense-paid weekend in West Branch (just east of Iowa City) during the summer between their junior and senior years. During the weekend, they receive mentoring and assistance developing their projects to aid in their success.

Time is also spent behind the scenes at the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum to help students become more familiar with President Hoover's ideals regarding humanitarianism and public service. In November of their senior year, finalists make presentations about their projects at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. At that time, each student receives their award money based on the results.

Herbert Hoover, Iowa native and the nation's 31st President, is the inspiration for the award. He noted, "We believe in equal opportunity for all, but we know that this includes the opportunity to rise to leadership . . . to be uncommon." The award, funded entirely by private donations, is sponsored by the Hoover Presidential Foundation, a nonprofit support group for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch. Information and applications may be found at www.UncommonStudent.org.

About the Foundation

The Hoover Presidential Foundation promotes and supports the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, National Historic Site, and other programs that enhance the understanding of Herbert Hoover as president and humanitarian.